

U.S. Serial No. 10/700,534
Amdt. dated December 15, 2004
Reply to Office Action of September 16, 2004

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Amendment to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-31 (canceled)

Claim 32. (New) A ground cover anchor for anchoring a ground cover, comprising:

- a shaft having threads at one end and a point at the other end for inserting into the ground;

- a nut threaded onto the shaft;

- a bottom length extending perpendicularly from the shaft and fixed to the shaft below the threads;

- a top length extending perpendicularly from the shaft and movable between the nut and the bottom length; and

- the bottom and top lengths each having an end for receiving a ground cover, the ground cover being secured when the ends come together by moving the nut down the shaft.

Claim 33. (New) The ground cover anchor of claim 32 in which the shaft comprises a smooth surface between the point and the bottom length, the surface being suitable for printing on.

Claim 34. (New) The ground cover anchor of claim 32 in which the point of the shaft comprises barbs.

Claim 35. (New) The ground cover anchor of claim 32 in which the point of the shaft comprises an inverted cone.

Claim 36. (New) The ground cover anchor of claim 32 in which the point of the shaft comprises a spiral, the spiral being suitable for screwing into the ground.

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Claim 37. (New) The ground cover anchor of claim 32 in which the ground cover is a towel.

Claim 38. (New) The ground cover anchor of claim 37 in which the anchor is inserted into sand.

Claim 39. (New) The ground cover anchor of claim 32 in which the ground cover is a picnic blanket.

Claim 40. (New) The ground cover anchor of claim 32 in which the ends of the lengths comprise teeth.

Claim 41. (New) The ground cover anchor of claim 32 in which the ends of the lengths each have a series of ridges, the series of ridges on one length being staggered in relation to the series of ridges on the other length.

Claim 42. (New) The ground cover of claim 32 in which one of the top and bottom lengths further comprises a protrusion and the other of the top and bottom lengths further comprises a hole for receiving the protrusion such that when the hole receives the protrusion, the lengths are oriented along each other.

Claim 43. (New) The ground cover of claim 32 in which the nut is a wingnut.

Claim 44. (New) The ground cover of claim 32 in which the nut is a knurled thumb nut.

Claim 45. (New) The ground cover of claim 32 in which a stop is attached above the threads at one end of the shaft such that the nut cannot be removed from the shaft.

Claim 46. (New) The ground cover anchor of claim 32 in which the ground cover anchor is plastic.

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Claim 47. (New) The ground cover anchor of claim 32 in which the ground cover anchor is brightly coloured so as to be easily located.